

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

INFO AMCONSUL DOUALA

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: EFIN

SUBJECT: COCOA PROCESSING

1. RECENTLY SEVERAL AMERICAN CHOCOLATE MANUFACTURERS EXPRESSED INTEREST IN COCOA PROCESSING IN CAMEROON. AS A RESULT OPIC/FINANCE IS DEVELOPING A REPORT FOR PROMOTION OF THIS INVESTMENT POSSIBILITY. WE HAVE RUN INTO SEVERAL IMPORTANT QUESTIONS THAT OUR RESEARCH CANNOT ADEQUATELY ANSWER. CAN YOU ADVISE US AS TO THE FOLLOWING:

(A) WHY THE JAPANESE FIRMS MITSUI AND DAITO PULLED OUT OF EQUITY PARTICIPATION IN SOCACAO?

(B) IS THE GURC STILL ACTIVELY SEEKING FOREIGN EQUITY AND MANAGEMENT SOURCES TO REPLACE THEM?

(C) IF AN OPPORTUNITY STILL EXISTS IN SOCACAO WOULD
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APPRECIAT ANY INFORMATION EMBASSY CAN GIVE US ON THIS PLANT--

INVESTMENT OUTLAY SOUGHT BY GURC; STRUCTURE OF MANAGEMENT RESPONSIBILITY; QUALITY OF MACHINES, WORK FORCE AND FINAL PRODUCTION; SHIPMENT PROBLEMS AND COSTS TO THE DOUALA PORT; AND PLANNED EXPANSION (PLAN CITES DOUBLING OF CAPACITY).

2. WE HEARD FROM MR. NOMO THAT THE CLAY BRICK PLANT RECENTLY CLOSED. WILL THIS PRESENT SERIOUS DIFFICULTIES IN THE LOCAL SUPPLY OF BUILDING MATERIAL?

3. WHAT IS THE GENERAL WAREHOUSE AVAILABILITY IN CAMEROON? DO WAREHOUSES HAVE DEHUMIDIFYING AND TEMPERATURE CONTROL CAPACITY (I.E. SHOULD WE ADVISE AMERICAN INVESTORS TO BUILD THEIR OWN?)

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